

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

17. (Currently amended) Process of preparing a cross-linked polymer comprising ~~cross-linking~~ 1) forming a mixture of a first hyaluronic acid salt product having a first molecular weight and a second hyaluronic acid salt product having a second molecular weight greater than the first molecular weight, wherein the first hyaluronic acid salt product and the second hyaluronic acid salt product are two separate pre-existing products prior to the forming step; and 2) cross-linking the mixture of step 1) in an aqueous solvent in the presence of an effective and non-excessive amount of at least one cross-linking agent, such that the degree of cross-linking, defined by the ratio:  $100 \times (\text{total number of reactive groups in said cross-linking agent} / \text{total number of disaccharide units in the first hyaluronic acid salt and second hyaluronic acid salt})$ , is theoretically between 0.5 and 70%.

Claims 18-19 (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 17, wherein at least one of the first and second hyaluronic acid ~~salts~~ salt products is selected from a sodium salt, a potassium salt, and mixtures thereof.

21. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 17, wherein the first hyaluronic acid salt product has a molecular weight of no greater than  $9.9 \times 10^5$  Da; and the second hyaluronic acid salt product has a molecular weight of at least  $10^6$  Da.
22. (Previously presented) Process according to claim 17, wherein said mixture has an intrinsic viscosity of less than 1900 ml/g.
23. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 17 wherein said mixture contains more than 50% by weight of the first hyaluronic acid salt product and less than 50% by weight of the second hyaluronic acid salt product.
24. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 17, wherein said mixture contains at least 5% by weight of the second hyaluronic acid salt product.
25. (Cancelled)
26. (Previously presented) Process according of claim 17, wherein said cross-linking agent is selected from bifunctional crosslinking agents and mixtures thereof.
27. (Previously presented) Process according to claim 17, wherein the degree of cross-linking is theoretically between 4 and 50%.

28. (Withdrawn- currently amended) Process for the preparation of an injectable monophasic hydrogel of at least one cross-linked hyaluronic acid salt product comprising:

formulating the cross-linked mixture according to claim 17, neutralized if necessary, into a solution buffered to a pH of between 6.5 and 7.5.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Withdrawn) A crosslinked polymer obtainable after a cross-linking process according to claim 17 has been carried out.

31. (Withdrawn) An injectable monophasic hydrogel obtainable after a preparative process according to claim 28 has been carried out.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 17, wherein at least one of the first and second hyaluronic acid salts salt products is a sodium salt.

34. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 17, wherein the mixture contains about 90% by weight of the first hyaluronic acid salt product and about 10% by weight of the second hyaluronic acid salt product, the first hyaluronic acid salt product is a sodium salt

having a molecular weight of about  $3 \cdot 10^5$  Da, and the second hyaluronic acid salt product is a sodium salt having a molecular weight of about  $3 \cdot 10^6$  Da.

35. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 17, wherein the first hyaluronic acid salt product has a molecular weight of between  $10^4$  Da and  $9.9 \times 10^5$  Da, and the second hyaluronic acid salt product has a molecular weight of between  $10^6$  Da and  $10^8$  Da.

36. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 17, wherein the second hyaluronic acid salt product has a molecular weight of between  $1.1 \times 10^6$  Da and  $5 \times 10^6$  Da.

37. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 17, wherein said mixture contains more than 70% by weight the first hyaluronic acid salt product and less than 30% by weight of the second hyaluronic acid salt product.

38. (Previously presented) Process according to claim 17, wherein said cross-linking agent is selected from epichlorohydrin, divinyl sulfone, 1,4-bis(2,3-epoxypropoxy) butane, 1,2-bis(2,3-epoxypropoxy) ethylene, 1-(2,3-epoxypropyl)-2,3-epoxycyclohexane, aldehydes, and mixtures thereof.

39. (Previously presented) Process according to claim 38, wherein said aldehydes are selected from formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, crotonaldehyde, and mixtures thereof.

40. (Previously presented) Process according to claim 17, wherein said cross-linking agent is 1,4-bis(2,3-epoxypropoxy)butane.

41. (Withdrawn) Process according to claim 28, wherein the pH is between 7 and 7.4.

42. (Withdrawn) Process according to claim 28, wherein the pH is 7.1 and 7.3. Previously presented.

43. (New) A process according to claim 17, wherein the first hyaluronic acid salt product has a molecular weight of between  $10^4$  Da and  $9.9 \times 10^5$  Da, the second hyaluronic acid salt product has a molecular weight of between  $1.1 \times 10^6$  Da and  $5 \times 10^6$  Da, said mixture contains more than 50% by weight of the first hyaluronic acid salt product and at least 5% by weight of the second hyaluronic acid salt product.

44. (New) The process according to claim 43, wherein the second hyaluronic acid salt product has a molecular weight of about  $3 \times 10^6$  Da.

45. (New) The process according to claim 43, wherein the first hyaluronic acid salt product has a molecular weight of about  $3 \times 10^5$  Da.

46. (New) The process according to claim 43, wherein said mixture contains more than 70% by weight of the first hyaluronic acid salt product.